



IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1 and 4.

1. (Currently amended). Method of preloading a tapered roller bearing (1) secured with a conical seat on a tapering roll neck (3) of a roll (2), in particular, a back-up roll, arranged in a roll stand by means of a chock (4), by application of a hydraulic pressure thereto,

characterized in that

the bearing inner ring (18), rollers, (17) and the bearing outer ring (13) of the tapered roller bearing (1) are being subjected to pressure produced during rolling and are radially preloaded against the roll (2),

characterized in that

the tapered roller bearing (1) is preloaded by an annular pressure device (5) arranged on each side of the roll (2) in the chock (4) and supported relative to the roll (2), and in that upon application of pressure, the pressure applying device (5) displaces the chock (4) with the bearing outer ring (13) in a direction toward the roll body (15) or the roll (2) in an opposite direction.

2. (Original). Method according to claim 1,

characterized in that

the tapered roller bearing (1) is preloaded with a pre-set hydraulic pressure.

3. (Original). Method according to claim 1,

characterized in that

the tapered roller bearing (1) is preloaded in a controlled manner dependent on the rolling force.

4. (Currently amended). A device for preloading a tapered roller bearing (1) secured with a conical seat on a tapering roll neck (3) of a roll (2), in particular, a back-up roll, arranged in a roll stand by means of a chock (4), by application of a hydraulic pressure thereto, ~~for effecting the method according to one of claims 1 through 3, with the bearing inner ring (18), rollers (17) and the bearing outer ring (13) of the tapered roller bearing (1) being subjected to pressure produced during rolling and being radially preloaded against the roll (2),~~

characterized in that

an annular pressure-applying device (5) is supported on the roll (2) by an axial bearing (9) provided on the roll end neck (8), is arranged against the bearing outer ring (13) of the tapered roller bearing (1) and, upon application of pressure, displaces the chock (4) with the bearing outer ring (13) in a direction toward the roll body (15) or the roll (2) in an opposite direction.

5. (Original). A device according to claim 4,

characterized in that

the pressure-applying device (5) is a ring-shaped cylinder (7) with a plurality of separate pistons (6).

6. (Original). A device according to claim 4,

characterized in that

the pressure-applying device (5) is an annular piston.

7. (Previously presented). A device according to claim 4,

characterized in that

the pressure-applying device (5) and the axial bearing (9) are arranged in the chock (4).

8. (Previously presented). A device according to claim 4,

characterized in that

between the pressure-applying device (5) and the bearing outer ring (13) of the tapered roller bearing (1), a thrust ring (11) is provided.

9. (Original). A device according to claim 8,

characterized in that

the thrust ring (11) is formed as an extending radially inwardly collar (12) formed as one-piece with the chock (4).